

Claim 1 (currently amended) A gastight-sealed alkaline nickel/metal hydride button cell storage battery comprising positive and negative electrodes arranged in a button cell case and separated by a separator, wherein both electrodes have a support and conductor framework, which includes a porous metal foam or metal felt, and wherein the positive electrode contains active material, but on a side bearing against the cell case, has a metallic region which is free of active material, and extends over greater than about 5% to about 15%, of the total thickness of the positive electrode.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended) A gastight-sealed alkaline nickel/metal hydride button cell storage battery comprising positive and negative electrodes arranged in a button cell case and separated by a separator, wherein both electrodes have a support and conductor framework, which includes a porous metal foam or metal felt, and wherein the positive electrode contains active material, but on a side bearing against the cell case, has a metallic region which is free of active material  
[The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1],

wherein the region which is free of active material extends over about 10%, of the total thickness of the positive electrode.

Claim 4 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the positive and negative electrodes has a central cut-out, the volume of which is about 5 to about 20 % of the volume of the positive and negative electrode, respectively.

Claim 5 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the positive and negative electrodes has a central cut-out, the volume of which is about 10% of the volume of the positive and negative electrode, respectively.

Claim 6 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1, wherein both of the positive and negative electrodes have a central cut-out, the volume of the central cut-out being sized to accommodate an amount of electrolyte to impregnate both of the positive and negative electrodes.

Claim 7 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the negative electrode has recesses on a side facing the cell cover.

Claim 8 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the recesses have a depth of about 5 to about 15 % of the thickness of the negative electrode.

Claim 9 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the recesses have a depth of about 10 % of the thickness of the negative electrode.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A gastight-sealed alkaline nickel/metal hydride button cell storage battery comprising positive and negative electrodes arranged in a button cell case and separated by a separator, wherein both electrodes have a support and conductor framework,

which includes a porous metal foam or metal felt, and wherein the positive electrode contains active material, but on a side bearing against the cell case, has a metallic region which is free of active material,

wherein the negative electrode has recesses on a side facing the cell cover, and

wherein the recesses are formed in a star or spoke arrangement.

Claim 11 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a substantially flat spring, which has a multiplicity of substantially flat spring tongues bent out of the base material, is located between the negative electrode and the cell cover.

Claim 12 (original) The gastight-sealed nickel/metal hydride storage battery as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising ribs extending outwardly from the spring in a direction opposite the tongues.